

ORIA

AT THE NATIONAL RADON MEETING

Highlights of News and Events

Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA)

September 25 - 28, 2005

15TH NATIONAL RADON MEETING:

- Director's Perspective/Strategic Future Plans

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air spoke candidly about the strategies and future plans for addressing radon risk reduction. The national radon meeting is taking place in San Diego California September 25 – 28, 2005. Federal, State, and Industry radon professionals from across the nation are attending.

"We need the collective energy and wisdom of everyone in the environmental and public health community. I would like to challenge all of us in the room today to keep this front and center during these days we are spending together. Let's identify ways that we can work in partnership to strengthen the results we achieve."



- EPA Radon Update

Tom Kelly, Director, Indoor Environments Division delivered updates of national activities being conducted by States and Regions in achieving the goals of radon reinvigoration efforts.



"We are seeing renewed purpose, vigor, and creativity at all levels in our national campaign to reduce public health risk from household radon. EPA, States, Non Government Organizations, and the industry are cooperating as never before to prevent as many as possible of the 20,000 annual deaths due to radon-induced lung cancer."

Members of Tom's staff are involved in international indoor air quality activities as well.

- **EPA'S Radon Booth**

Each year EPA's staff distribute hundreds of pieces of radon related literature at the National Radon Meeting to inform attendees and the public of important radon issues. The EPA Radon booth attracts a lot of attention with this year's theme centered on building radon out. This illustration depicts the steps taken to build radon out of a residential property. The booth is available for use by EPA partner organizations as well.



Diane Hamilton of EPA's Indoor Environments Division hands out materials to Jeffrey Newman from Waterboro Maine, interested in radon activities at EPA.

"I enjoy working at the booth. It gives me the opportunity to interact with the States, Regions, the private sector, and Industry professionals. I get a chance to become more aware of what the public wants and needs relating to radon and indoor air quality."

- **MOISTURE STUDIES PANEL**

A panel of radon experts discussed a radon/moisture study project currently being conducted in Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania. The study is being conducted in three residential homes with elevated radon levels. Gene Fisher, Health Physicist at EPA discusses the details of the radon/moisture study project at the National Radon meeting in San Diego, California September 26, 2005.



"The purpose of the study is to demonstrate whether active soil depressurization systems (typical radon mitigation system) impact moisture entry and control in residential structures. Each house in the study has been instrumented with radon and moisture detectors and will be monitored for one full year. The successful results of this study will provide home owners with another benefit (moisture reduction) if radon mitigation systems are installed."

Each year EPA professionals participate in the National Radon Meeting held in different locations throughout the United States.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **National Radon Action Week**, October 16 – 22, 2005 – contact your National IAQ Partner and visit <http://www.epa.gov/radon> for information/ activity ideas.

For further details on this publication please contact Charles Gasque at 202-343-9117 or gasque.charles@epa.gov. You may also visit EPA's website www.epa.gov/iaq for more information on indoor air quality and radon.